


# The Arboretum Bulletin



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## A RARE OPPORTUNITY

There may have been many inquiries from various organizations asking how they may help the Arboretum and offering to sponsor some collection.

To those interested we now have a rare opportunity such as seldom comes to an organization.

## RHODODENDRON GLEN

This is to be a feature of the Arboretum and as planned will be the outstanding floral display in America, if not in the world.

We have ideal climatic conditions and a location that is a gem of beauty. Here will be species from India, China, Tibet and elsewhere; colors that defy description; rhododendron trees that eventually reach a height of forty to sixty feet as well as tiny rock rhododendrons only a few inches high. No other Arboretum in America will have anything comparable to it.

The sponsoring of this planting is limited to forty-four groups—each of which will have a series (family group) that will be accredited exclusively to the sponsor.

These groups cost from \$40.00 to \$320.00 each, six groups have already been sponsored and four additional ones have been reserved. Those remaining open are as follows:

Anthopogon .....	\$125.00	Fortunei .....	\$150.00
Arboreum .....	150.00	Fulvum .....	30.00
Barbatum .....	150.00	Grande .....	60.00
Campanulatum .....	105.00	Irroratum .....	85.00
Campylogynum .....	55.00	Laetum .....	105.00
Cephalanthum .....	290.00	Lapponicum A.....	300.00
Dauricum .....	60.00	Lapponicum B.....	290.00
Falconeri .....	105.00	Lepeditum .....	195.00
Ferruginum .....	50.00	Maddenii .....	100.00
Neriiflorum			
Forresti			
Haemotodes .....	\$220.00		

Neriiflorum	
Sanguineum .....	\$320.00
Ponticum .....	90.00
Salweenense .....	185.00
Scabrifolium .....	105.00
Taliense	
Adenogynum .....	70.00
Roxieanum .....	200.00
Taliense	
Wasonii .....	80.00
Thomsonii	
Campylocarpum	
Martianum .....	75.00
Souliei .....	85.00
Thomsonii .....	75.00
Trichocladum .....	50.00
Triflorum	
Angustinii	
Oreotrephes .....	85.00
Polylepis	
Triflorum .....	105.00
Yunnanense .....	110.00
Virgatum .....	80.00

Contributions of \$25.00 or less will be credited to Rhododendron Propagation Fund.

No club can afford to overlook this opportunity. Not only will you have a fixed and permanent place in the Arboretum, but your club will be credited with sponsorship on a bronze tablet for all time.

Assignments will be made by the committee in the order of their arrival. We cannot guarantee any particular group, so please state second choice.

The price covers all charges—plants, planting, design.

As these are mostly rare varieties, many of them come from abroad, so early ordering is desirable.

Address all communications to The Arboretum Foundation, Rhododendron Committee, 6620 White Building, Seattle, Washington.

## TREE PEONIES

One of the many beauty spots in the Arboretum will be the Tree Peony beds. Already ten of the very choicest varieties of this very beautiful shrub have been planted and in time many more will join the colony. The ten varieties mentioned came to the Arboretum as a gift from the Garden Club of America. Last April a delegation of members headed by Mrs. Oakley Thorne of California, Regional Vice President of the Garden Club of America, visited Seattle on their way to Victoria to spend Garden Week. Later, as an expression of their appreciation of the courtesies extended them by members of the Seattle Garden Club, the ten fine varieties of Tree Peonies were sent as a gift to the Arboretum.

These ten plants are just the nucleus of what will be made one of the finest collections of Tree Peonies in the world.

Although the Tree Peony once sold for fabulous prices, it is today within the reach of all of us. The only factors that stand in the way of a Tree Peony for every cottage are a few years of time and further improvements in grafting methods. Your Arboretum expects to handle this last situation for you, for one of its chief functions is to render service to the home owner.

Some of the varieties so generously bestowed upon the Arboretum are lovely beyond description. For instance, the Danemon, whose long, broad petals are a soft, flesh-tinted shell pink; another is the rarely found delicate pearly-pink of the large double Momoyama. The large snow-white fragrant flowers of another variety justify the name "Moonlight," and that elegant sun-yellow one is known as Nagoya Castle.

Eventually the Arboretum collection will contain a wonderful range of pinks which make the Tree Peony so unique a flower—all fine, clear, shining colors, and also the flamboyant cherry reds and crimson.

In addition to their incredible beauty, the form and size of these flowers cause them to stand alone in the kingdom of flowers. If size interests you, there will be no difficulty in producing blooms the size of dinner plates. Some catalogues claim even fourteen inches.

The form of the bloom, sometimes cup-shaped, sometimes with the petals beautifully reflexing, is of ideal beauty, and the texture of the petals, which are often crissed and laced with delicate lines, is lovely beyond description. But it is not alone the flowers that make the Tree Peony so desirable, for from the moment in spring when it begins to unfold its leaves in light green, deep green or a coppery reddish color, until the ruddy leafage is shed in the autumn, there is not a moment when you cannot stop and admire the grand substance, quality, and the spread of its foliage. Some of them look like great ferns; but whatever may be the

character of the foliage of an individual kind it is never uninteresting, never lacking in quality.

Even in the matter of fragrance, that last-added perfection of beautiful plants, the Tree Peony has some claims. It must be admitted that Tree Peonies do not often have what is called a true fragrance. It is not undesirable, indeed, but not quite good enough to have a special charm. But once in a while, by some subtle alchemy, it acquires for itself a fragrance that is almost the exact duplicate of that of a June rose.

Something of the history of the Tree Peony was told by Miss Anne Gould, a daughter of one of the members of the Seattle Garden Club, during a recent broadcast. "The Peony," she said, "has been such a familiar flower in humble gardens in this country that many persons are not aware of its proud and aristocratic genealogy.

"The descent of the Peony can be traced through numerous periods of history, even into mythology. At different times in the past it has been the object of many journeyings and voyages, the subject of years of painstaking study, and to its improvement men have lovingly devoted a large portion of their lives.

"The name 'Peony' usually refers to the herbaceous plants that die down to the ground in autumn; the kind we usually see in the garden; but there is another Peony, not so common, that has woody stems and does not die down to the ground in autumn, and it is called the Tree Peony.

"Think of the biggest, showiest, most stunning Dahlia you have ever seen—then endow it with the texture, tone and crinkled beauty of a Shirley Poppy's satiny petals. Add to that the depth and regal splendor of the Oriental Poppy. Now treble the size, the strength, the gorgeousness, and you have the Tree Peony.

"With its rich foliage to enhance its flawless perfection, this dazzling, exotic plant stands alone in the flower kingdom. The Chinese, who have lovingly cultivated it for fourteen centuries, describe it as the 'King of Flowers.' They call it *Sho Yo*, which means 'most beautiful.' It served as a flower of remembrance which one friend bestowed upon another on separation. These charming customs are referred to in an old Chinese song: 'If anyone will give his friend a present, he hands a gift most beautiful of all.'

"The Tree Peony does not belong alone to China, for we find it being introduced into Japan in the seventh century, where, as in China, it was first used as a medicine. Later it became the subject of much patient care and clever experimenting until we find the Japanese producing some of the loveliest Peonies in the world and incidentally developing a great reverence for it. As in China, it became one of the motifs for their art and we find it, in combination with the peacock and a sort of glorified lion, decorating the walls of temple and palace."



## GIFT FOR OUR MEMBERS

Those who have become members of the Arboretum Foundation will find enclosed in their copy of this month's Bulletin a package of seeds of *Embothrium Coccineum*, a rare shrub bearing bright and scarlet flowers. The shrub is a native of Chile. Dean Winkenwerder of the Forestry Department of the University of Washington had in one of his classes several years ago a member who lived in Chile. He later returned to his native country, where he became identified with the forestry department of his government. When he learned that we were to have an Arboretum in the Northwest and that his old professor was the director he got busy and sent him a goodly number of the seed of *Embothrium Coccineum*. After a generous planting in the Arboretum nursery beds there were still on hand a number of seeds which the Arboretum desires to share with its members for planting in their own gardens.

If you are not a member of the Arboretum and desire to have some of these seeds as well as to share in the future distribution of rare seeds and plants which the Arboretum will from time to time be able to furnish its members, join the Arboretum. You will be contributing to one of, if not the most outstanding, cultural movements in the life of the Pacific Coast. You may become an associate member at two dollars a year, a participating member at five dollars, an active member at ten dollars or a sustaining member at twenty-five dollars. If you wish a membership application mailed you, please write to Mrs. First Johnson, Secretary, Arboretum, Office, 6620 White Building, Seattle.

## THE WOODLAND GARDEN

By MRS. GLADYS FRANCE BAKER

The Woodland Garden of the Arboretum is a narrow strip of land about five hundred feet long, lying at right angles to Azalea Way, about midway of the Arboretum grounds, and comprising between one and two acres. Shady for the most part, it emerges here and there into full sun. The soil is rich and moist, and running lengthwise through the center of the tract will be a series of pools and cascades with rustic bridges; obviously an ideal location for those shade-loving and shade-tolerant plants which include within their company some of the world's loveliest.

There will be herbaceous flowering plants, bulbs, ferns, and shrubs, both deciduous and evergreen.

I think the Woodland Garden will achieve the spirit of that garden, the dream of which the late Ernest H. Wilson carried so long in his heart and never planted—that garden of which he wrote, "The garden that I love is richly peopled with pleasant folk—trees, shrubs, vines, herbs, birds, beasties, fairies and their ilk—and now and then I am privileged to listen to the wisdom that is theirs, and bidden to heed the lessons taught."

## ARBORETUM PROGRESS

The water system at the Arboretum has been completed except that part which will take care of the plantings in Foster Island.

The heavy rainfall during November was fine for planting and transplanting but hard on construction work.

Here are some of the plantings which were made during the month under the supervision of Fred Leissler, the able Assistant Director of the Arboretum:

Twenty-seven species and varieties of Pines; a large number of Monterey, Italian, Arizona and Japanese Cypress; fifteen species and varieties of *Chamaecyparis* (largely evergreen trees of pyramidal habits) which include the old and favorite *Retinospora*; ten species of *Arbor-Vitae*, or tree of life (evergreen trees of North America and Eastern Asia); five species of Spruce and three species of Fir.

In addition to the tree planting, the first planting in Azalea Way was made. It included the 275 Azalea Schlippenbachi, so generously presented to the Arboretum by the Amateur Gardeners' Study Club, together with a number of the beautiful *Cornus Florida*. Thousands of *Scillas* were naturalized among the Azaleas.

Close to 55,000 bulbs of Dutch and Spanish Iris, Daffodils and Crocuses went into the ground during the month. (What a glorious garden picture they will present in the spring, summer and fall of the coming year!)

From the cutting beds and the cold frames hundreds of small plants went into the nursery beds in November together with a large variety of Oak and other hardwood seeds—more than two thousand seeds in all; also seventy-five fine specimens of *Rhododendron Albiflorum*, which Assistant Director Leissler collected in the Olympics during a recent week-end trip.

Much to the delight of Herbert Ihrig, the energetic Chairman of the *Rhododendron* Committee of the Arboretum, the ground in the nursery bed set aside for *Rhododendrons* has been prepared and is now ready for the many beautiful species and hybrids of this glorious family. They will remain in the nursery bed until such time as they are to be placed in their permanent home.

Sixty-nine hundred species and varieties of trees and shrubs will be planted in the Arboretum, according to figures prepared by Assistant Director Leissler.



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